

Geometry of Night

Jenny Patton

The Ohio State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm>



Part of the [Literature in English, North America Commons](#), and the [Mathematics Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Jenny Patton, "Geometry of Night," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume 9 Issue 1 (January 2019), pages 365-365. DOI: 10.5642/jhummath.201901.24. Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol9/iss1/24>

©2019 by the authors. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons License.

JHM is an open access bi-annual journal sponsored by the Claremont Center for the Mathematical Sciences and published by the Claremont Colleges Library | ISSN 2159-8118 | <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/>

The editorial staff of JHM works hard to make sure the scholarship disseminated in JHM is accurate and upholds professional ethical guidelines. However the views and opinions expressed in each published manuscript belong exclusively to the individual contributor(s). The publisher and the editors do not endorse or accept responsibility for them. See <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/policies.html> for more information.

Geometry of Night

Jenny Patton

patton.220@osu.edu

In three-dimensional Euclidean space,
lines in a plane that do not meet are parallel.

*My beautiful aunt loved to sleep, bogs
my insomniac cousin about my mother
who went to her parallel life every night.*

Those studying Playfair's axiom note the
constant distance between parallel lines.

I try to imagine Mom's parallel life, her
dream world in which Dad, Joey and me,
our life together, never touches her.

Evidence lies in affine transformations,
maps preserving the parallel alignment.

I picture Santa Monica, sunflowers of Arles,
Japanese gardens, but those we experienced
together, places where we were congruent.

Skew lines are neither parallel nor collide,
yet parallel lines share a common plane.

Now that she's gone, maybe she lives this
other life I struggle to envision. Or perhaps
the line of infinity offers closure, intersection.